



June, 1993

Volume XXIV Number 5

FREE

Neighbors Nervous Over Plans for New Hill Church

By Vas Arnautoff

Plans for an Episcopal church that would occupy a quarter of a block at DeHaro and Mariposa Streets have drawn protests from neighbors of the project who see a threat to their views and to gardens that they claim would be shadowed for much of the day if the structure is built.

Protesters are the residents and owners of houses on the east side of Rhode Island Street whose decks and backyards look over the site of the proposed St. Gregory Nyssen Church.

The property, owned by the Episcopal diocese for some six years, presently has on it some sheds and a small two-story building now being used for offices and a small meeting room by the church. Before its conversion to ecclesiastical use, it was the office of a mail delivery service, and plans are to incorporate the structure in the plans of the project as a whole.

Of prime concern to the neighbors are two spires, which would rise 64 feet from the Dellaro Street level, as high as the tower at the Anchor Steam Beer Brewery across the street. The southern spire rises from atop an octagonal dome 45 feet in breadth; the northern is 15 feet wide.

According to Rev. Donald Schell, pastor of St. Gregory and a Potrero Hill resident, the difference in the bulk of the spires was a modification in response to the neighbors' concerns about the structure's bulk when plans were first revealed three and a half years ago. Lack of funding has delayed progress on the project, but the church is now ready to proceed.

Rev. Schell feels that the protesters' fears of shadowed yards are "unreal" and goes on to point out that "the site is zoned M-1 so we could legally build up to 40 feet high up to the property lines."

(Continued on Page 6)

Hillers Mobilize to Help Improve McKinley Park

By Stephanie Potter

Potrero Hill residents are up in arms over health and safety threats posed by dogs at McKinley Square Park on Vermont and 20th Streets. And two parents who bring their small children to the playground are taking serious action.

Joan Anthony and Lorna Enero Berman have organized Friends of McKinley Square to fight for a safe, clean space for both children and adults to enjoy. They hope to "come up with a plan that will be in everyone's best interests," notes Anthony.

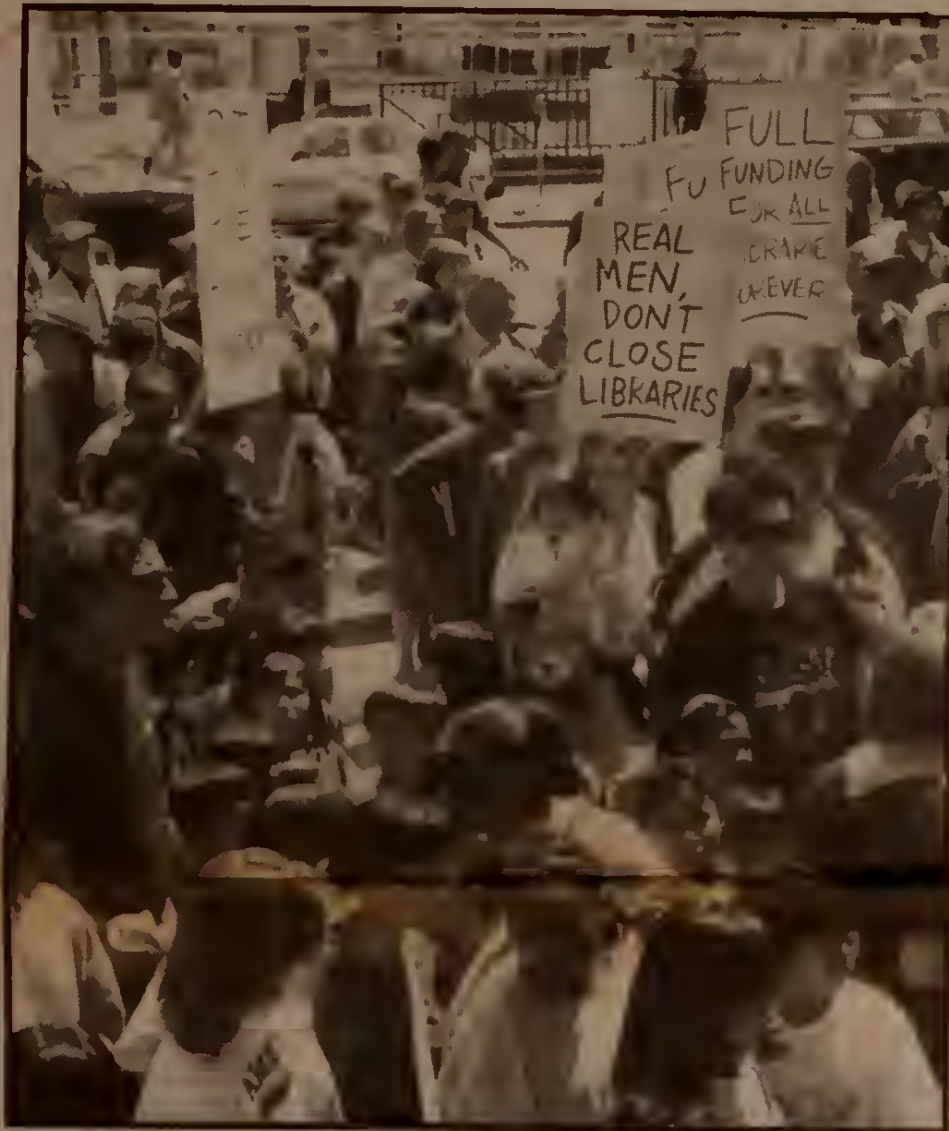
Berman feels that despite its magnificent location and panoramic views, the park is underutilized by neighborhood families and children — for two reasons. "The two-level play area is poorly design-

ed and ill-equipped to handle young children, especially when you are trying to keep an eye out on more than one child at a time," she said. And, she added, "aggressive dogs, and dog feces and urine, are often found in the unenclosed children's play area. Sadly, the park's popular nickname is Dogshit Park."

Even some dog owners have noticed a visible deterioration in the condition of the park. Art Walker, owner of two dogs, observed that in recent years, more people are not picking up after their pets. Lloyd Miglio, who lives across the street said that some evenings he's seen as many as 100 dogs gathered in the park.

Berman and Anthony are gathering neighborhood support to obtain money from the Recreation and Parks Depart-

(Continued on Page 6)



Library patrons jammed the plaza in front of City Hall May 13 to demand a full fiscal year's funding for the City Library system.

Judy Baston photo

Hundreds Rally in Support Of Full Library Funding

By Judy Baston

A determined crowd of more than 500 people gathered in front of City Hall May 13 to demand full funding for the library budget for the entire fiscal year beginning this July.

The rally took place just as a parcel tax for funding libraries was being proposed as the latest response to the City's budget shortfall. Mayor Frank Jordan had proposed that a full year's worth of library funding and services would be contingent on the passage in November of a property parcel tax earmarked for libraries.

Although details of this parcel tax proposal are as elusive as specifics of the Mayor's actual budget cut plans, the tax concept will be on the agenda at the next meeting of the City's Library Commission, slated for 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1 in the Lurie Room of the Main Library.

The structure and amount of a tax, the General Fund matching contribution and the impact of a tax on property owners and renters will be discussed at this Commission meeting. The Commission is also inviting suggestions on the types enhancements and levels of service

that could be achieved through additional funding, such as more daytime and evening open hours at the branches, Sunday hours at the Main, more new books, or other improvements.

But if a parcel tax were to be on the ballot and fail, and if the Board of Supervisors were to go along with Jordan's plan to fund the library only until the November vote, serious cutbacks would ensue after November, including closure of 15 to 20 branches or branches open only two days and only for children's services.

It was to protest the very real possibility of such cutbacks that the huge crowd gathered at City Hall May 13. Among those in the crowd were a number of developmentally disabled adults who participate in the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House's Social Development Program.

"In the Social Development Program we used to take our clients to the Potrero Library, but since hours were cut back there, we now take them to the Main Library for videos," said Program staffer Sylvie Woo. "The clients use library services and don't want to see them cut back any more. They all have a stake in libraries — after all, they're citizens, too," she stressed.



David Berman and Arielle Anthony on swings at McKinley Park — oblivious to local dogs and their leavings.

Stephonie Potter photo



In Our View

Save the Hill Clinic

In the seesaw process that has come to characterize San Francisco's budget discussions, it was still a shock at press time to learn of a proposal by Jim Wunderman — chief budget aide to Mayor Frank Jordan — that would close all eight neighborhood clinics of the San Francisco Health Dept. This includes, of course, the Potrero Hill Caleb Clark Clinic on Wisconsin Street.

Even though Jordan indicates this decision is not final, City Health Director Ray Baxter notes that four of the eight centers might still close and that the remaining four — as well as all health services in the city — would be virtually crippled by the cuts. Whatever Jordan's decision, after June 1, the Board of Supervisors begins to discuss the budget and for the month of June, attention is focused on them.

Potrero Hill residents are urged to attend an emergency meeting on the proposed threat to the Caleb Clark Clinic. The meeting is set for Thursday, June 3 at 6 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. In addition, if you haven't already signed one of the petitions supporting the clinic, found at a number of local stores, do so right away. And a call to both Mayor Jordan's office and that of each member of the Board of Supervisors can help let them know that this neighborhood needs our clinic — and we intend to fight to save it.

Vote “Yes” on A

The quarter-cent of San Francisco's sales tax that is earmarked for our schools and community college is due to expire on June 30 of this year — unless this city's voters go to the polls on June 15 and pass Prop. A by a two-thirds mandate.

Prop. A does not establish any new taxes, it simply will make permanent this extremely small portion of our sales tax that goes to help the schools, which, of course are currently facing an ever worsening fiscal crisis. And despite our belief that sales taxes are regressive ways of collecting revenue, the crisis in education simply demands that we strongly urge a 'Yes' vote.

Among the school cutbacks that have been proposed — and would certainly take place if Prop. A were to fail: Yet another increase in class size; the elimination of 160 classroom teaching positions; reduction of the few counselors in the school system so the counselor-to-student ratio would soar to one-to-1,240; and the elimination of all librarians in middle schools with an enrollment of fewer than 1,000 students.

Because Prop. A is the only issue on the ballot, and because the election is expected to bring out a low voter turnout, your vote for this measure is more crucial than ever. With perhaps 100,000 San Franciscans expected to vote, Prop. A will need nearly 67,000 votes to succeed. Mark June 15 in your calendar now — or go down to City Hall and vote absentee. The future of our schools depends on it. There's only one issue on the ballot and the choice is clear.



Masthead design by
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Special thanks to Nabe staffers: Gayle Justice, LaVette Green and "T"

Editorial and policy decisions are made by the staff. All staff positions are voluntary. Published once a month except January.

Address all correspondence to THE POTRERO VIEW, 953 De Haro St., San Francisco, Ca. 94107. Telephone: 824-7516
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THE POTRERO VIEW is printed at Howard Quinn, a union shop.



Keep School Libraries Open

Editor:

I am a concerned student. I go to Potrero Hill Middle School and I have heard that the school board is talking about closing the libraries at schools that have less than 1,000 kids in the student body if the sales tax for the school doesn't pass.

First of all our librarian only works at our school half of the week. So the library is closed most of the time. To close it completely would be horrible!

Tons of kids use the library to read, do research and do work. It has great books and we are getting more and more everyday. The kids at my school love the school library (for some of them it is their only way to get books). Because reading is educating and education is the key to the future the library is very important!

Leticia Schmidt
Sixth Grade

Dogs, Parks in Richmond

Editor:

Being temporarily "homebound" away from my Potrero Hill studio, I have become acquainted with the successful Point Isabel Park in Richmond (Berkeley/El Cerrito).

The dog owners are friendly and cooperative. So are the dogs. All enjoy a romp. It might be worth a trip to see it. Weekends are most exciting.

In the picture, you will see the rules. The small box is installed by dog owners and kept full of plastic bags. The park service supplies the rules, signs, plastic-bagged trash cans.

Robert Holdeman
Berkeley

Save Natural Areas

Editor:

The following letter was sent to Mary Burns, General Manager, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

It was with great concern that I learned that the two most important "natural areas" in San Francisco are threatened: Bayview Hill and O'Shaughnessy Hollow, precious and beautiful areas with native plants, woods, and grasslands, hosting disappearing species of birds, butterflies, and other living creatures. The loss of these areas would be the loss of priceless irreplaceable treasures in the City of San Francisco, for now and for future generations.

As the sellers of these properties are now unwilling to sell, the City should and must use its power of Eminent Domain to save these precious places. Under this arrangement the landowners would receive fair market-value for their property. These areas could be acquired by means of the "Natural Areas" acquisition fund out of the City's Open Space Fund (Prop. E money).

These areas preserve a living history of our City. They should be preserved as living museums, and as a vital habitat for endangered native species as well as areas for recreation of rare natural beauty in an urban setting.

Tamara Rey Patri
Fair Oaks Street



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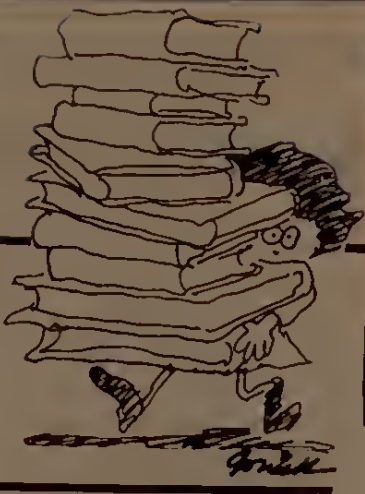
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Thurs., Fri., & Sat. 1 - 6 pm

CREDIT AND GRATITUDE DUE

Many of you attended meetings and rallies, wrote letters or signed petitions demonstrnting your support for the library. The Mayor has acknowledged that your efforts mnde an impression. Many, many thanks.

BUDGET DEFERRED

Proposed cuts in the library's budget have been postponed, pending voter response to a November ballot measure creating a library assessment district. In general, such a measure would guarantee library funding via a specified portion of property taxes. Details to follow as they develop.

ONGOING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Preschool Story Time, a half hour of reading aloud and singing along, continues Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Lapsits, featuring books and songs for infants and toddlers, continue on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S FILM PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 23rd's 7 p.m. program (in lieu of Story Time) will feature adaptations of Steven Kellogg's "Mysterious Tadpole" and Pat Hutchins' "Rosie's Walk," as well as the Academy Award winning animated short, "Sand Castle."

COMING ATTRACTIONS: ADULT BOOKS ON ORDER

- * Archer, Jeffrey. "Honor Among Thieves." Iraqi terrorists and the U.S. Mafia team up to steal the Declaration of Independence.
- * Black, Veronica. "A Vow of Sanctity." A sleuthing nun on spiritual retreat in Scotland discovers an extra skeleton in an ancient crypt.
- * Brave Bird, Mary. "Ottitika Woman." The autobiographical sequel to "Lakota Woman" (written under the name Mary Crow Dog).
- * Castaneda, Carlos. "The Art of Dreaming." Don Juan's protege extolls the power of lucid dreaming.
- * Caunitz, William. "Cleopatra Gold." Two cops undercover (even from each other) track a heroin syndicate assassin through the world of New York's after-hour clubs.
- * Clark, Carol Higgins. "Snagged." Regan Reilly resolves to determine who strangled a pantyhose executive with a

- fishnet stocking.
- * Grimes, Martha. "The Horse You Came In On." Scotland Yard Superintendent Jury journeys stateside to investigate three Baltimore murders somehow entangled with a possible Edgar Allen Poe forgery nnd some bluebloods of dubious descent.
- * Holden, Anthony. "The Tarnished Crown: Princess Diana and the House of Windsor." Pity the poor Queen Mum. . . .
- * Le Carre, John. "The Night Manager." A British spy infiltrating an arms-for-cocaine operation becomes a pawn in grandiose post-Cold War intrigue.

- * McCaffrey, Anne and Scarborough, Elizabeth Ann. "Powers That Be." While recuperating from exposure to poison gas, Major Yanaba Maddock is sent to spy on the icy planet Petaybee where she finds her allegiances shifting.
 - * Rosenbaum, David. "Zaddik." Theft of the dowry for a wedding intended to reconcile two estranged Brooklyn Hassidic factions compels rival rebbis to seek help from a hard drinking ex-cop descended from a revered Nineteenth Century holy man.
 - * Steel, Danielle. "Vanished." When Marielle Patterson's former lover is brought to trial accused of kidnapping her son, long-held secrets receive a very public airing.
 - * Wood, Bari. "Dolls Eyes." Upon "witnessing" a murder with her mind's eye a clairvoyant becomes the killer's next intended victim.
- Thomas Tavis
Potrero Branch Librarian

MUNI - BART Tix at NABE

MUNI and BART tickels are available al lthe Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays lthrough Fridays, during office hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Senior Muni	\$5.00
Youth Muni	\$5.00
Senior BART	\$1.60

For more information
- call 826-8080

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

PUBLIC INPUT FOR MISSION BAY PLANS?

Concern over what, if any, public participation will take place in the planning of the Southern Pacific (SP) Mission Bay project was expressed by Potrero Hill citizens. SP Development Corp. Vice President Bob Brewer dismissed the idea of a citizens' advisory group, claiming that public meetings over the previous few months represented "adequate public effort in the project." At a May 3 presentation at the Potrero Hill Middle School, SP was accused of being insensitive to the plan's effects on housing, congestion and obstruction of views.

NEIGHBORS PROTEST WISCONSIN ST. HOUSING PLAN:

Neighbors of the proposed Wisconsin Street housing development (now Parkview Heights) mounted an all-out campaign to block the plan approved by the City's Planning Commission. They said the approved plnns call for condominiums rather than a cooperative arrangement, eliminate any common recreational areas, lack any of the promised solar design and no longer include the financing that would have made units more affordable for lower income families.

POTRERO HILL RUN DEBUTS:

Dubbed the "Scenic Scamper," a 5.5 mile competitive run to benefit the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House was scheduled to debut June 18. Promising "prizes and surprises, spectacular scenery, commemorative ribbons" and more for runners, joggers nnd walkers in what was projected as an annual event, the run had already signed up stalwart locals such as marathoners Frances Bradford, Mike Pechner and "super septuagenarian Walt Stack" among its participants.

BOXER EULOGIZES PHIL BURTON:

In her column in the View, then-Congresswoman Barbara Boxer spoke of the late Congressman Phil Burton who had died the previous month: "Phil was far too young to die. At 56 he had years more work ahead — work for the environment, for peace, for the dignity of those in society who need a helping hand once in a while. Phil had a firm hand for them . . ."

CHURCH, UNION GROUPS FORM COALITION:

Ninety members of St. Teresa's Parish and a sizable group of tenants from Potrero Hill public housing were among 1200 delegates to the founding convention of the San Francisco Organizing Project (SFOP) held at Everett Middle School. Representatives of 19 churches, 12 labor unions, three synagogues and the Citizens Action League were among those gathered who stated unanimously SFOP's commitment "to support the poor and powerless in their struggle for justice."

THIS AND THAT:

The Julian Theatre was showing the West Coast premiere of "Daddy," written by Ed Bullins . . . Eureka Theater was moving its production of "Cloud 9" to the Marines Memorial Theater. The drama was directed by Hill resident Richard Seyd and starred another Hill citizen, Sigrid Wurschmidt . . . Winners in the Bridge to Bridge Marathon (3rd Street to 4th Street) sponsored by the Mission Creek Conservancy, were awarded title deed to 185 acres of Mission Creek but vowed "We won't build!" Winners were Ray Hansen, Ed Lampe, Fran Blechman, Lester Zeidman and Kayren Hudiburgh . . . After four years as champions, the Potrero Hill Middle School track team had to accept runner-up status, losing to first time winner Herbert Hoover.

— Vas Arnautoff

GETTING INVOLVED

Friends of McKinley Square and several neighborhood SAFE groups will be holding a pot luck on Saturday, June 19 starting at noon. The meeting will take place at McKinley Square Park on the corner of 20th and Vermont Streets. Neighbors will have a chance to get together to discuss such issues as neighborhood safety and upgrade of the park.

The Potrero Boosters and Merchants Assn. meeting takes place on the last Tuesday of the month, June 29, upstairs at the neighborhood public library, 1616-20th St. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., preceded by a half-hour of socializing beginning at 7.

The Potrero Hill Democratic Club will hold its regular meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, June 8. The meeting takes place at 7:00 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street.

Residents of the Southeast Sector (Roses) is an organization that facilitates interaction between the police and the community. It will be holding its meeting on the first Thursday of the month, June 3, at the Esprit Corporate Building, at 7 p.m. at 900 Minnesota St.

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street • San Francisco, California • (415) 826-8080
Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

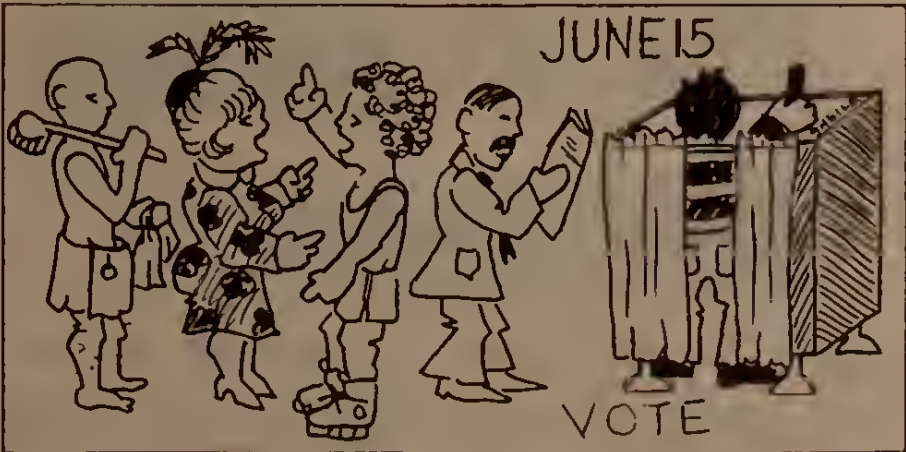
Girls Club Meetings	-	Mon., 5
Omega Boys Club Meetings	-	1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
		Every Tues., 7:30 p.m.
Study Hall	-	Tues., 5-7 p.m.
Juvenile Diversion		
Tutorial Program		
Job Referral		
Al-Anon	-	Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Alcohol Anonymous	-	Sun/Mon/Thurs, 8:30 p.m.

Social Development Center: For developmentally disabled adults. Basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer and health education, field trips, sensorimotor development, work training, leisure time use, group and individual counseling.
Senior Citizens Program: Hot lunches every weekday (at small cost). Activities include - bingo games, information and referral, counseling, social hour, games and recreation.
Classes: Photography, Arts & Crafts.
Potrero Hill Neighborhood Theatre

Facilities:

Meeting spaces available for use by community groups
Auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, workshops and receptions
Gymnasium and recreational space
Photographic workshop
Bulletin board with job and events listings
Mini-park
Child Development Center (for pre-school children)

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Remembering Ninfa De Rosa: Caring, Concerned Neighbor

Ninfa De Rosa, long-time Potrero Hill resident and highly respected matriarch of an old Potrero Hill family, died May 7. Ninfa and her husband Mario (Marty), who died in 1986, were known to many in the Potrero Hill community for their care and concern. They treated customers as friends, and recalled Ninfa in 1986, the pair "sometimes caught young thieves in the store, and took care of the problems ourselves." They would "ring them by the ears" and tell them, "Don't ever do that again," instead of calling for the police.

The De Rosa family owned and operated

a grocery store at Arkansas and 20th Streets for more than 50 years before they sold it in 1976. And Ninfa, who raised three children at their home on Arkansas Street, stepped in to help with the grocery when her brother-in-law Joe could no longer work alongside Marty.

Ninfa and Marty were a team and together they served the community in a unique way — providing both groceries and advice to those who were the object of their concern.

More than 100 people paid a loving tribute to her at St. Teresa's Church on May 15.

—R.P.

Nabe Benefit to Feature Mozart by Pocket Opera

Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera production of *Così fan tutte*, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's sparkling tale of young love, will be performed (in English) Wednesday, June 2 at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street.

Donald Pippin, Artistic Director and creator of Pocket Opera, has had a career that has taken him from Harvard University to New York City, where he was pianist and accompanist for Balanchine's School of American Ballet. He finally settled in San Francisco in 1952, where he has been an important part of concert life of The City. Audiences followed him from his start at the Hungry i and Opus One in North Beach through his nearly two decades of performing in a weekly Sunday night chamber music series at the Old Spaghetti Factory.

Since then, he has specialized in singable and literate English translations of opera classics, performed at such prestigious venues as the Kennedy Center, San Diego Opera, and Julliard School of Music. He was the first recipient of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Business/Art Award.

Admission for the Pocket Opera's "Così fan tutte" benefit performance is \$5-10 (Sliding Scale.) Proceeds from the event go towards the work of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, a community center offering a wide range of services to the Potrero Hill community. For reservations or more information on this event, call (415) 826-8080.

Donald Pippin's

Pocket Opera

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Così fan tutte June 2, 7:00

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Two naive young lovers discover (to their eventual relief) that their adorable sweetheart not belong on a pedestal. Marcelle Dronkers, Margorel Lisi, Elyn Peabody, William Pickersgill, David Toft-Kekuewa, Richard Wolker.

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Admission: Sliding scale, 5 - \$10
Reservations, Information: (415) 826-8080

Radical Activist, Writer Bill Bailey To Talk About "Kid From Hoboken"

Longtime San Francisco labor and radical activist Bill Bailey, author of the recently published autobiography "The Kid From Hoboken," will talk about his life and his book at City Lights Bookstore, 261 Columbus Avenue in San Francisco's North Beach on Wednesday, June 16 from 5-7 p.m.

The book's 424 pages chronicle a life full of adventure, excitement, and dedication to social change. Chapters range from tales of riding the rails, going hungry in hobo jungles to union organizing aboard ships and on the waterfront.

Bailey's story offers a dramatic look at the history of our times through the eyes of a working man, covering his fighting in Spain with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the dangers he faced during World War II on merchant ships.

Bailey was feted by nearly 400 friends in January, 1992 at a luncheon that raised funds to help complete his book.

"The Kid From Hoboken" is available at City Lights Bookstore, Black Oak Books in Berkeley, and other Bay Area bookstores.

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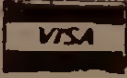
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COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

Grand Jury Urges Sale of Scott School

By Judy Baston

The City's Civil Grand Jury May 5 recommended that the San Francisco Unified School District sell off a number of parcels of what has been labeled "surplus property" — including the I.M. Scott School at 1060 Tennessee Street on Potrero Hill.

Although the report noted that "this facility has been unused (by the School District) for two decades," the building currently serves as home to a number of local groups. Master tenant for the last dozen years has been the Potrero Hill Community Development Corporation (PHCDC), which in turn rents space to such groups as the First Step program, and Samoa mo Samoa.

(The newest tenant at the space is the Omega Boys Club, which several months ago moved their fast-expanding office operation to the Tennessee Street location from the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, where they had been since their founding. Although the Omega administrative arm has moved to Tennessee Street, the young people still gather at the "Nabe" for the Club's sessions.)

What will the Grand Jury's recommendations mean for this Tennessee Street facility?

Joe Simmons of the School District's Property Management division — and the author of a report last fall on which the Grand Jury based its recent recommendations — told *The View* that the School District had recently signed a two-year lease with the PHCDC. "We worked out with them a period for them to get some people in to help defray the expenses of the rent," he said.

Both Simmons and the PHCDC's Jim Queen noted that the group spent a number of years in the building rent-free. "The group put in a fair amount of work in lieu of rent," Simmons pointed out. And Queen noted that before the PHCDC moved into the building, there had been a fire in the roof, which he said made the building uninhabitable. He estimated that his group put in a combination of nearly a half million dollars between in-kind work and funds they obtained to bring the building up to code.

The building has since received Historical Landmark status from the City, and whatever the legal disposition of the property, it could not be demolished. Queen — who told *The View* that he was unaware of the Grand Jury recommendations, said he had spoken with both Simmons and School Superintendent Waldemar Rojas about the future of the Tennessee Street building, and had indicated the PHCDC would be interested in buying it if it were for sale.

The Grand Jury recommended that the Superintendent put the matter of surplus School District property before the Board of Education, which, as a first step, should have the Tennessee Street site and four other parcels appraised. However, the Grand Jury noted that "care must be given not to set minimum bids at unrealistically high levels so as to foreclose interest in the properties."

The State Education Code provides that funds from the sale or longterm lease of school properties are to be used solely for the repair, replacement or deferred maintenance of the District's physical facilities — not for teachers' or other staff salaries, books, computers or other areas more directly related to classroom instruction.

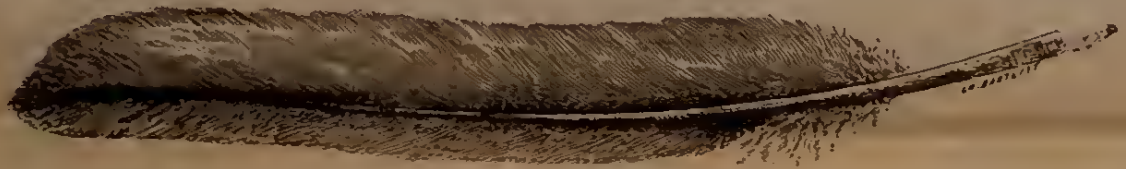
It may be this restriction on the use of funds that has kept disposition of surplus school property from being a top priority of the District, Simmons speculated.

A COUPLE OF PALS



Posing in front of 327 Missouri St. in 1920 were (l-r) good friends Bernice Bertich and Edith Merwin. This photo can be seen in a special exhibit of Hill History prepared by the Potrero Archives Project at Goat Hill Pizza, 300 Connecticut St.

Photo from Virginio Corlton collection



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Neighbors Nervous Over Plans for New Hill Church

(Continued from Page 1)

But neighbors like Joan Tricamo and Terry Wood are concerned that the proposed structure could be more damaging to their views and gardens than one 40 feet tall in its entirety. "It's massive," they maintain.

While deploring the idea of a fight with neighbors, Rev. Schell admits, "I'm not sure where we go from here, having made the improvements (in the plans) we made." And he maintains that the church is "sensitive to the neighborhood."

This view of the matter is echoed by Elizabeth Boileau, a member of one of four Potrero Hill families in the St. Gregory congregation, of some 65 regular parishioners. "I think we've been responsive," she says. "We are not fixed; our ears are not stopped."

Project architect John Goldman, whose concern for "structure as ornament" is demonstrated in his plan for St. Gregory, feels that in the controversy "there's a neighborhood issue and a neighbor issue."

Public comments on the proposal are due at the Department of City Planning "as soon as possible." The agency's environmental planner Alice Glasner will then take the issue under advisement.

LATE NOTE

At View press time architect John Goldman reported that Rev. Donald Schell has requested a shadow study be made so that neighbors of the proposed church could see the effect the project would have on their properties.



Architect John Goldman's design of the proposed St. Gregory Nyssen Episcopal Church at De Haro and Mariposa streets. Neighbors behind the church on Rhode Island St. are afraid that the structure will block their views and shade their gardens.

Hillers Mobilize to Help Improve McKinley Park

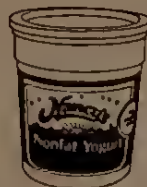
(Continued from Page 1)

ment Open Space Fund for park renovation and playground redesign. Changes under consideration would include additional children's play equipment, an enclosed play area, more park benches, a separate well-maintained dog run area, and a ramp for wheelchair and stroller access. Anthony was told by park officials that if approved, it might take two years to complete the project of upgrading the park, with a price tag of over \$250,000.

Anthony and Berman said that so far more than 100 people have signed their

petitions, and they have obtained the support of the Potrero Boosters and Merchants Association. They also hope for endorsement from other neighborhood groups.

The next meeting to discuss these and other neighborhood issues will be a potluck on Saturday, June 19 at noon. The meeting will take place at McKinley Square. Several neighborhood watch groups will also be in attendance and everyone is welcome. Call Joan Anthony at 821-7279 or Lorna Berman at 821-2091 for more information.



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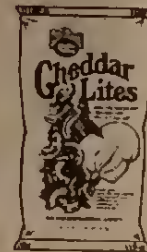
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VIEW cartoonist and author of "The Cartoon History of the Universe," Larry Gonick will present a slide show discussion of his latest book "The Cartoon Guide to (Non) Communication: The Use and Misuse of Information in The Modern World," Wednesday, June 16th at 7:30 p.m. at A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness Ave.

The Polytechnic High Athletic Assn. invites all former athletes, cheerleaders, coaches, managers and faculty members to their 10th Annual Reunion Luncheon June 12 at the Patio Espanol Restaurant in San Francisco. For more info call 697-0386, or write the Poly Athletic Assn, P. O. Box 821, Millbrae, Ca. 94030.

Each Saturday night in June solo performance artist F. Alan Hale and singer-songwriter Gayle Schmitt will perform at The Fifth Floor, located at 300 Brannan St., Suite 510. Performances are at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$8. Call 495-5362 for reservations and info.

Free graffiti remover is available from the city's traffic sign shop, 1999 Bryant St. Call George Reynolds at 554-9780. Free paint is also available to get rid of graffiti by calling 468-2442 at the 501 Tunnel dump site.

The Isadora Duncan Dance Center hosts an Open Studio on June 5 in honor of the legendary modern dance pioneer's birth anniversary. Events free to the public include a dance class, 10:30-noon; and lecture, exhibit and refreshments from 12-1:30 p.m. The studio is located at 3435 Army St., #202 in San Francisco.

Local art shows: Joni Eisen's works on display at Goat Hill Pizza, 18th & Connecticut Streets through June; Sculpture and works on paper by Phoebe Cole at the Joseph Chowning Gallery, 1717-17th St., through July 1; and the Andrea Schwartz Gallery at 333 Bryant St. features the works of Arnold Iger & Paul Kwan through June 25.



Music around the Hill includes a steady stream of jazz, blues, and salsa Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at The Ramp, 855 China Basin. Call 621-2378 for calendar. And the Gordon Biersch Brewery headlines guitarist/vocalist Joyce Cooling at their place #2 Harrison St. Call 243-8246 for info.

Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. features a book party for Marjorie Heins, Director, ACLU Arts Censorship Project who will talk about her new book, "Sex, Sin and Blasphemy: A Guide to America's Censorship Wars," June 4, 7:30 p.m.

Four local artists will exhibit their works in a special week-end show at architect Bill Walters' office June 19 and 20, 1246 - 18th St., from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Along with Bill, other Potrero Hill artists include Kimbyl Edwards, Lynn Komber and Katherine Rice. Works include ceramic pieces, light sculptures, metal jewelry, copper and steel pieces, and illustrations. For more info call 824-3245.

Summertime means looking around for activities for kids. The Exploratorium announces that for the first time in its history the popular hands-on museum will be open seven days a week during the summer months, from May 31 to Sept. 6. Hours of operations are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Wednesdays till 9:30 p.m. Admission is free to members and all children under age six. Paid admission ranges from \$4-\$8. For more info call 561-0360.

It's "goodbye" to Ida Lewis, former owner of Seams Like Only Yesterday on 18th Street, who is going to live in Israel. A farewell concert will be given for her at the Congregation Beth Shalom, 14th at Clement St., June 7 at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 641-7368.

Music by Rebbe Soul and Hot Borseht klezmer bands, belly dancing, ethnic food and special activities for kids are in store for those attending the Israel Independence Day Festival, June 6 in Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park. The event is free. For more info call 512-6278.

The Potrero Hill Recreation Center, 22nd and Arkansas Streets will once again host the annual Pro-Am Basketball League every Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. beginning June 15. Some of the professional players committed to play in the league include Cal's Jason Kidd, and the L.A. Clippers' Lester Conner. Admission is free.

The Golden Gate University School of Law plans to open a Legal Assistance Clinic for Women that will address employment rights for low-income women under 30, who are entering the job market. The clinic is expected to be able to serve 40 to 50 clients each semester. The school is located at 536 Mission St.

The Cartoon Art Museum at 565 Third St. is offering an exhibit, "A Decade of Superheroes," that includes the retelling of the very first "Batman" story from 1939. Along with this exhibit are the works of Edward Gorey, best known for his introductory graphics on PBS' "Mystery!" series and his stage sets for the theatrical production of Dracula, as well as illustrations in the New Yorker, Lampoon and the New York Times Book Review. This show runs through Sept. 5. For more info call 546-3922.

Women between the ages of 18 and 45 who experience severe premenstrual syndrome are invited to participate in a UC San Francisco study funded by the National Institute of Health. The goal is to determine the effectiveness of a non-drug program for relieving PMS symptoms. Participants will receive a complete medical evaluation and individualized symptom management program that includes diet, exercise and stress reduction. All treatment is free. Call Diana Taylor 476-4377, or Monica Weisberg, 476-4557.

Congratulations to newlyweds Andrea Twilling and Tom Kearns, and to Paul Sarvis and Penelope Jones who pledged their troths in late May.

A sneak preview of Carlos Avila's "La Carpa," a tale of a troupe of Chicano entertainers during the Depression, shows at a special time June 9, 8 p.m. at the New Strand Theatre, 1127 Market St. Proceeds from the event, sponsored by the National Latino Communications Center, will benefit the first annual Festival Cine Latino! to be held in October 1993. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for Cine Accion members and includes a gala reception with the director beginning 6:30 p.m.

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Lesbian, Gay Film Festival Scheduled to Open June 19

By Julia Jaurigui

During the news conference for the 17th annual San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, I overheard a weary member of the press, in not so sotto voce, announce "another day, another festival." Yes, it does seem that every few weeks or so a film and video festival is taking place in San Francisco. But is this inundation of films and videos and provocative programming a good or bad thing? And should this seemingly endless flow of narratives, documentaries, animation, and avant garde films produce such a jaded reaction?

I would venture to guess that the reason San Franciscans are considered such a demanding, discerning, and sophisticated film and video audience is precisely because we are continually exposed to an abundance of great, and to be fair, not-so-great, films and videos by local, national, and international artists.

In fact, I heartily agree with New York film critic Molly Haskell's view expressed during a roundtable discussion at the San Francisco International Film Festival last month — that film festivals should be considered important cultural events because they may be the last refuge for film lovers who enjoy the diversity and challenges offered by independent and subtitled films. So, if San Franciscans can be said to suffer from anything, it is from an embarrassment of riches. This is particularly true of this year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, which opens June 19.

The "incredibly rapid growth" of this 10-day annual film and video extravaganza is reflected by the festival's 117-film programs (featuring 264 titles) at seven venues (Roxie Cinema, Castro Theatre, Berkeley's Pacific Film Archive, San Jose's Towne 3, Eye Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute and the AMC Kabuki Theatre). The Festival, according to its director Mark Finch, is also "becoming a marketplace for buyers and programmers from around the world" and an indicator of the "huge lesbian and gay audience" that exists throughout the world.

Opening night will feature simultaneous screenings of the West Coast premiere of "Forbidden Love," a film that interweaves archival footage and contemporary interviews with nine women who paint a portrait of lesbian sexuality and survival in Canada during the 1950s and 60s. The film, co-directed by Lynne

Ferne and Aerlyn Weissman, will screen on June 18, at 7 p.m. at both the Castro Theatre and in San Jose. It will be followed at 9:30 p.m. (Castro Theatre) by a re-release premiere of Gus Van Sant's ("Drugstore Cowboy," "My Own Private Idaho") first feature, "Mala Noche" in a new 35 mm edition.

Other highlights of the festival include the West Coast premiere of Ang Lee's award-winning "The Wedding Banquet," an engaging romantic comedy about a gay Chinese American man with a Caucasian lover who enters into a marriage of convenience with an illegal immigrant desperately in need of a green card, (June 26, 11 a.m., AMC Kabuki), the world premiere of "Confession Of A Pretty Lady," a new BBC TV portrait of the outrageously marvelous comedian/actress/writer Sandra Bernhard (June 19, 10:45 p.m., Castro Theatre), "Sistah Action," an evening of new work by lesbians of color (June 24, 5 p.m., Castro Theatre), and the West Coast premiere of Derek Jarman's "Wittgenstein," a colorful and humorous film starring Tilda Swinton of "Orlando" (June 19 at the Castro Theatre.)

Also included in the festival lineup are a showcase of Bay Area film and video makers (more than 40 Bay Area artists will be featured in the festival), a wide-ranging selection of Latino/Latina, African American and Asian American films and videos, and 80 documentaries from the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Cuba, Australia, Israel, The Philippines, Russia, Germany and Great Britain.

The Festival closes with the world premiere of Richard Blatzer's "Grief," a bittersweet comedy set behind the scenes on a bad daytime TV drama (June 26, 7:30 p.m., Castro Theatre).

If there is anyone, at the conclusion of this festival, who dares to bemoan the fact that San Francisco has far too many film and video festivals, then I suggest she or he should seriously consider relocating.

For more information on the festival, call the 24-hour Festival hotline at (415) 431-9227.



"WEDDING BANQUET"



"The Wedding Banquet" premieres at the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival June 26.

STORYTELLING



The ancient art of storytelling is making a comeback. And not just for children. This new group — of and for adults — can be seen the fourth Tuesday of every month at Farley's, 1315-18th St., and on June 18 they will appear at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. (near 24th St.) in "The Best of Farley's." Organized by Ron Jones, the group includes storytellers and stand-up and sit-down comic artists Rob Gurwitt, George Lewis, Susan, Bernice, Joyce, Jeff and Dennis.

Glen Hirschberger photo

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Busy Summer Season For Theatre Artaud

The summer season promises to be a busy one — at least for the performing arts — judging from the June line-up at Theatre Artaud.

The first two weekends, June 3-6 and June 10-13, will bring Albert Camus' rarely produced 1938 theatrical master work, "Caligula," presented by American Theatre Ventures in association with California State University, Hayward. The cast is headed by David Arrow, reprising his award-winning 1992 portrayal of Caligula and noted Bay Area actor, Nancy Carlin. Kevin Gould's unusual sound design is generated by a computer program that responds to sounds on stage, creating unique musical combinations for

"BREAKING THE SILENCE"



"Breaking the Silence," an art exhibition and workshops about and for survivors of child sexual abuse, opens June 11 at the San Francisco Women's Building, 3543-18th St. For info call Kim Lau, 431-1180. The show ends July 8.

Mosk created by Kotheryn Trenshaw

each performance. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sunday June 6, and 7 p.m. on Sunday June 13. For reservations call the Artaud at 621-7797 or BASS Tickets.

On June 18-20, Friday-Sunday, OnSite Dance Company presents "Arcna," a series of dances that simultaneously celebrate and poke fun at the current obsession with athleticism. "Arcna is clever, superbly energized . . . extraordinary feats of physicality with a sly ironic context," wrote the San Francisco Examiner's Allan Ulrich when the piece premiered here last summer.

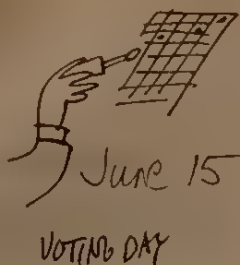
Finally, the legendary emperor Khubilai Khan is the subject of a world premiere "In Xanadu . . . (Invisible Cities)," a collaborative theater work by Shadow Master/director/writer Larry Reed and producer/choreographer Eva Soltes.

Both have long shared a fascination with Asian arts and culture. "Khubilai Khan governed the largest and most populous empire in the history of the world in the 13th century. With his wife Chabui as partner, their empire ranged from Korea to the borders of Hungary; from China to Iraq." The work features stars of the Chaksam-Pa Tibetan Dance and Opera Company with music by Forrest Fang, and with Belinda Sullivan as Storyteller.

"The production is very cinematic," explains director Larry Reed, "and features the most ancient form of scenic projectors — a light behind a screen — combined with today's high-tech lighting sources. Our shadow images can be 15 feet tall or quickly shrink to just a few inches . . . unique and exciting."

"In Xanadu . . . (Invisible Cities)" plays Thursday - Sunday, June 24 - 27. All performances are at 8:30 p.m. Call 621-7797 for all three attractions.

— W.M.



"BODY PARTS"



Five graduates of the American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.) in a collaborative performance of monologues titled "Bodyparts" at Studio 2505, 2505 Mariposa St., June 17-July 11. Shown above (l-r): Guiseppe Jones, Zachary Barton and playwright Sharr White.

Vincent Paratore photo

SHOW ON POTRERO



"Ladder to a New Day" is part of an exhibition of artwork by Kent Alexander opening June 6 at his studio, 151 Potrero Ave. (at 15th St.). For gallery hours call 864-8394.

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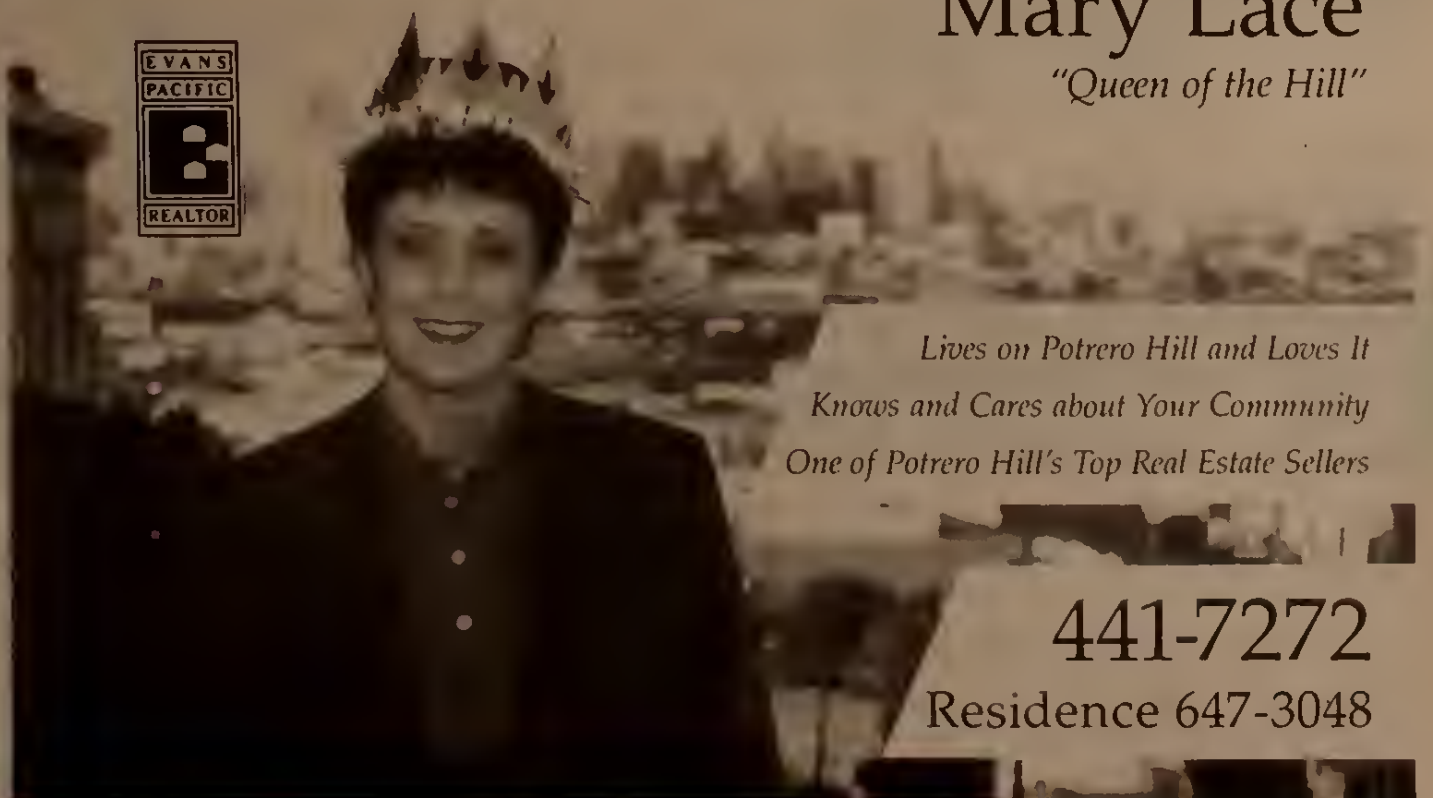
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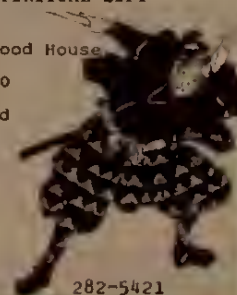
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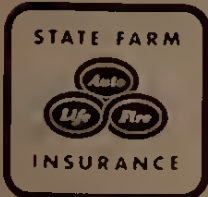
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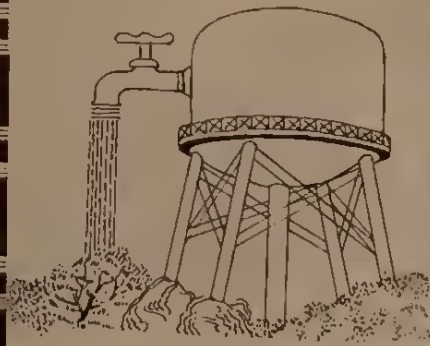
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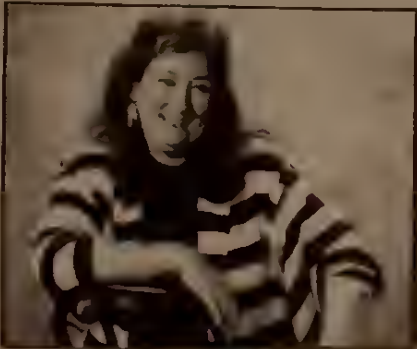
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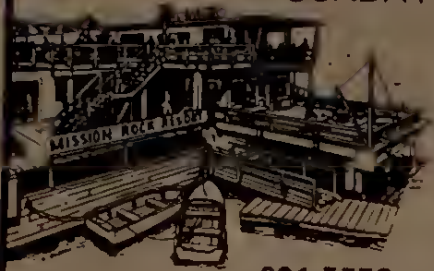
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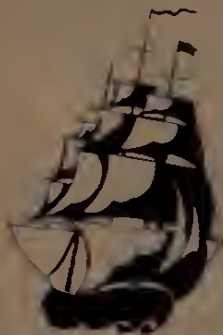
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HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY: Matthew Barclift, Judy Baston, Gino Biradelli, Randy Bryant, Cecily Byrne, Chuck Cannon, Florent De Serpos, Brigid Donovan, June Finis, Lisa Franks, Frank Gaston, Nina Gershater, Alex Goldhammer, Felix Harry, Gilles Hauser, Don Hernandez, Marilyn Koopman-Rowe, Henry Kurtz, Barbara Lane, Rachel Lovett, Frances Millhauser, Quinten Moody, James & Bruce Nye, Ruth Passen, Mary Price, Rita Rector, Jack & Jason Rowe, Gloria Unti Sarvis, Elly SLimmons, Leslie Simpson, The United Nations, Nick Watanabe, Richard Werthimer.

